



Valley Oaks Charter High School

2021 / 2022

Student Handbook & Information Guide

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valleyoakscharterschool.org/highschool/

Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Students:

It is with great honor and pleasure that I welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year. Valley Oaks High School is a unique schooling option composed of passionate educators, involved parents, and engaged students. At Valley Oaks you will be part of the culture of learning where everyone works together to meet individual student needs and prepare them to move to the next step of college or career. We are coming out of a time of upheaval and look forward to once again providing all of the unique options that make VOCS such a wonderful place.

This year, Valley Oaks will continue our mission of supporting student learning, providing opportunities for social/emotional growth in students and honoring parent choice. Our staff regularly reviews our effectiveness and are continually finding ways to improve as we strive to meet this mission. If you are new to Valley Oaks, we are confident that you will notice and appreciate what makes us a unique school that is reflective of our dedicated staff and parent partners. If you are returning, you will likely notice some of the improvements we have made in the spirit of meeting our mission and can be assured they have been made for the betterment of all students.

In this guide you will find information that will assist the student and parents in navigating some of the intricacies of Valley Oaks High School. We realize that there are many items that this handbook does not cover and that you may have questions regarding these. You are encouraged to contact your Advisor if any such questions should arise.

We are truly honored that you have chosen to entrust Valley Oaks with the education of your high school student.

Tom Shelton

Principal

Valley Oaks High School

Mission Statement

Valley Oaks Charter School is a community that provides opportunities, support, and accountability for families seeking an alternative educational experience tailored to their students by providing programs rooted in parent choice.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

By graduation, Valley Oaks Charter School students will be:

Academic Achievers who...

- Strive to meet or exceed academic standards adopted by the state
- Demonstrate academic growth toward standards
- Are exposed to state adopted standards through a variety of experiences

Communicators who...

- Use multiple modalities to demonstrate competence as active listeners, speakers, readers, and writers

Critical Thinkers who...

- Identify and assess problems and find solutions using complex reasoning processes such as comparison, classification, induction, deduction, analysis, synthesis, investigation, inquiry, and invention
- Collect, evaluate and use information from varied sources
- Know how to test hypotheses, solve problems, and form conclusions based on relevant, reliable data and information
- Demonstrate a capacity to apply acquired knowledge to changing conditions

Technologically literate students who...

- Know VOCS internet policies and procedures
- Use technology and telecommunications in a way that demonstrates an understanding of legal and ethical implications and expectations
- Are fluent consumers of technology and apply their knowledge in society
- Critically evaluate the context, subject matter, and validity of internet resources

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) (Continued)

Culturally aware and productive citizens who...

- Contribute time, energy, and talents to improve their school, community and the world
- Have a general understanding and appreciation for our diverse society
- Demonstrate individual responsibility, personal integrity, and perseverance
- Understand the principles required to be productive citizens in a democratic society

Motivated, Self-Directed students who...

- Strive to learn and apply goal setting techniques, organize and manage time efficiently, and assume responsibility for their personal life-long learning

Valley Oaks Standards for Student Success

We define academic success as completion of courses and progress towards graduation coupled with student learning. The following standards lead to student success at Valley Oaks Charter High School.

- **Daily Engagement**
 - Dedicate 4-6 hours to work/learning every school day
- **Work Completion**
 - Complete all assigned work on or before due date
- **Class/Meeting Attendance**
 - Attend all scheduled class sessions, if part of Tues./Friday program
 - Attend all scheduled support sessions
- **Use of Student Supports**
 - Communicate with teacher(s) regularly as needed
 - Communicate with class advisor, school counselor, career counselor as needed
 - Attended Thursday Support Program
 - Meet with VOCHS tutors for specific academic support
- **Parent/Home-Educator Engagement**
 - Facilitate creation of daily schedule every week
 - Ensure daily work is being completed every day
 - Evaluate student work as needed
 - Monitor student progress through Aeries weekly
 - Seek student support as needed

Tiered Levels of Support

We believe our primary role is to support students and home-educators. This support comes from subject teachers, class advisors, the Student Support Team (SST), and administrators who are all involved in identifying and removing barriers to student success.

To support the student and home-educator in making meaningful academic progress as well as meeting the Standards for Student Success mentioned earlier, Valley Oaks implements a Multi-Tiered system of support.

Tier I - Monitoring

The subject teacher and SST monitors all students for progress in meeting the standards mentioned above and intervenes as necessary to support students and home educators. If support/intervention does not rectify an issue, the student may be placed in Tier II Intervention.

Tier II - Intervention

Members of the SST will work with the student and home-educator to create specific goals and intervention to meet specific needs. Students are closely monitored for progress towards meeting these goals during a 4-week period. The student will be moved back to Tier I if they meet the stated goals. If the student does not meet the stated goals, they will be placed on Tier III academic probation.

Tier III - Academic Probation

An administrator will work with the student and home-educator to continue to work on specific goals. During this 4-week period:

- The student and home-educator will be closely monitored for progress through weekly meetings with the assigned administrator
- The student and home-educator must attend the Thursday Support Program each Thursday
- The student may not attend extracurricular activities, unless otherwise approved by the administrator

The student will be moved back to Tier II if they meet the stated goals. If the student does not meet the specific goals during the 4-week period, they may be involuntarily disenrolled. Should involuntary disenrollment take place, the student will be referred to their district school.

VOCHS Graduation Requirements

*220 total credits are the minimum for graduation. 1 year of a course equals 10 credits, 1 semester of a course equals 5 credits in most courses.

English - 4 Years	Math - 3 Years with 1 being Algebra
World History - 1 Year	US History - 1 Year
Life Science/Biology - 1 Year	Physical Science/Chemistry - 1 Year
Physical Education - 2 Years	Fine Art/Foreign Language - 1 Year
Health - 1 Semester	Technology - 1 Semester
Senior Seminar - 1 Semester	Career Ed/Freshman Sem - 1 Semester
Government - 1 Semester	Economics - 1 Semester
Various Electives - 50 Credits (5 year-long classes)	

A – G Requirements

If a student desires to qualify to enroll directly into a 4-year CSU, UC, or most private 4-year colleges, they must complete the A-G requirements as created by the CSU/UC system. These requirements may all be met through college prep level courses offered at VOCHS.

(A) History/Social Science – 2 years required

Two years of history/social science, including one year of world history, and one year of U.S. history.

(B) English – 4 years required

Four years of college-preparatory English that include frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature.

(C) Mathematics – 3 years required, 4 years recommended

Three years of college-preparatory mathematics

A – G Requirements (Continued)

(D) Laboratory Science – 2 years required, 3 years recommended

Two years of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in at least two of these three foundational subjects: biology, chemistry and physics.

(E) Language Other than English – 2 years required, 3 years recommended

Two years of the same language other than English.

(F) Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) – 1 year required

A single yearlong approved arts course from a single VPA discipline: dance, drama/theater, music or visual art.

(G) College-Preparatory Electives – 1 year required

One year (two semesters), in addition to those required in “a-f” above, chosen from the following areas: visual and performing arts, history, social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science and language other than English

Suggested Four Year Plan

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English 9	English 10	English 11	English 12
Math	Math	Math	Math
Health/Tech	Biology	Phys. Sci./Chem	Gov't/Econ
Freshman Sem	World History	US History	Senior Seminar
P.E.	P.E.	Elective	Elective
Fine Art (Gen Only) Spanish 1 (CP Only)	Elective Spanish 2 (CP Only)	Elective Spanish 3 (CP Only)	Fine Art Elective

Communication is Key

As stated in the Standards for Student Success, communication is a key aspect to student success at VOCHS.

Remind is a texting application in which students, parents, and teachers can communicate in a safe environment in which individual numbers are not exchanged and administration can monitor all communications.

The list below is the Remind groups for the grade levels based on graduation year. Parents and students are encouraged to join the appropriate class group.

Send the appropriate code to **81010** or join in the Remind app

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
@vohs22	@vohs2023	@vohs2024	@vohs2025

Class Schedule

Tuesday / Friday Regular Class Schedule

- 1st Period 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM
- 2nd Period 9:20 AM – 10:35 AM
- 3rd Period 10:40 AM – 11:55 AM
- Lunch 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM
- 4th Period 12:35 PM – 1:50 PM
- 5th Period 1:55 PM – 3:10 PM

Thursday Support Schedule

- Appointment Only 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM
- Open Tutoring 9:20 AM – 11:55 AM

Dress Code Policy

Students will wear clothing that is in good taste while on school grounds and/or involved in school activities. Decisions as to appropriate school dress, consistent with the following definitions/guidelines, will be at the discretion of the Valley Oaks administration.

Valley Oaks defines “appropriate” dress as:

- Pants (undergarments not visible, no sagging)
- Shorts (undergarments not visible, hem located on thigh)
- Skirt / Dress (mid-thigh or longer)
- Top/Shirt/Dress bodice (not revealing)
- T-shirt (appropriate words/logos)
- Footwear (appropriate for each school activity)

Dress that may NOT be appropriate:

- Any type of clothing with inappropriate or vulgar graphics or words.
- Any type of clothing that is ripped or torn in which the ripped area exposes the undergarments or is deemed exposing an inappropriate area of the body.
- Any type of clothing that is revealing. No part of any undergarment should be showing.
- Any clothing related to gang activity.
- Wearing of hats indoors unless allowed by a teacher or the person responsible for an indoor area.
- Any clothing that is dangerous with spikes, studs, chains, etc.
- Anything that is deemed by administration as having a negative impact on the learning of other students.

Mobile Device Policy

As technology becomes more and more prevalent in the learning process, mobile devices (cellphones, tablets, and laptops) are allowed for use on the Valley Oaks campus. In the classroom, the teachers have the final say as to whether or not students may use the mobile devices during class time. Students are expected to have their mobile devices put away during class unless specifically directed to use them.

Lunch Program

Every year, as part of our support program, students may be on campus for an extended period of time. Students are more than welcome to pack a lunch and something to drink, in order to have proper nutrition while they are in enrichment classes and/or tutoring.

Prepared lunches will also be offered for \$3.50. The student will not use money to purchase these lunches, but rather they will have an account that can either be pre-loaded with money or a bill will be periodically sent to the student's family. Some students may qualify for free or reduced priced lunches. More detailed information regarding the lunch program will be provided when school resumes.

A menu of the prepared lunches may be found at <https://bit.ly/3iwbr2t>

Parents are also welcome to bring the students' lunch, during the lunch period. If parents decide to bring lunch to their students they must bring the lunch inside the building. Students are not allowed to leave the premises during our lunch period. (12:00 to 12:25PM)

Visiting Campus

Parents or home educators are welcome to visit campus at any time. To ensure the safety of all students we ask that all visitors adhere to the following guidelines:

- All visitors must have a valid ID to check in with our Raptor Visitor Management System at the front desk and receive a temporary visitor's sticker.
- Temporary stickers must be worn in plain sight while the visitor is on campus.
- If visiting a class setting, the teacher should be notified prior to the visit.
- Seats in class will be given to the students before available to a visitor.
- All visitors must sign out at the front desk upon leaving the campus.

Thursday Support Program

Overview: The purpose of this program is to add another layer of support for students and parents/home-educators. Teachers, tutors, advisors, and counselors will be available to help families with the organization of home-school studies and academic content.

Who qualifies to participate in Thursday Support Program?

- Optional for all students to drop in at any time of the schedule
- Mandatory for all students on academic probation
- Highly encouraged for students who are recommended by subject teachers

Why participate in Thursday Support Program?

- To improve deficient grades
- On Tuesdays, the students receive weekly agendas from core classes. A key to success is to organize all of these assignments into a daily work schedule. Teachers will assist students and parents in mastering this skill.
- Core subjects like English and math may require tutoring in order to complete weekly assignments. Teachers are available to check work, give additional tutoring and help students' complete required weekly work.
- All teachers are available during their block time for students who may have missed class on Tuesday. Students are able to complete make-up quizzes, tests, and pick up assignments.
- Students and advisors/subject teachers can develop a relationship as they work through topics such as scheduling and post-graduation planning.

How do I prepare for the Thursday Support Program?

- Decide on the support(s) you need and with the help of your home educator, plan your goals for the day.
 - The home educator should review these goals after the student attends
- If needed, contact a tutor through Remind to schedule a tutoring session.
- Bring textbooks and supplies, class agendas, updated grade sheets, and lunch, if applicable. *Prepared lunches will be available.

Thursday Support Program (Continued)

Thursday Support Program schedule:

- 8:00 –9:15 *By appointment only*
Individual meeting time – All teachers, tutors, advisors, and counselors will use this time as needed to review student’s progress, develop study skills to improve academic success, etc.
- 9:20 – 11:55 *Open tutoring time*
Course Tutoring Block – Math/Science/English/Social Studies/Elective teachers will provide small group instruction, one-on-one tutoring, make-up testing, and other support.

ASB

The Valley Oaks High School ASB consists of elected members as well as student volunteers. The ASB serves as the governing body of all student activities and clubs. All students are welcome to be part of the ASB either as an elected official or student volunteer.

2021-2022 ASB Board Members

The following will be voted upon by the student body on 9/7/21. *Freshman Class Representative will be voted on after the end of the 1st Quarter.

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Commissioner of Events

Senior Class Representative, Junior Class Representative

Sophomore Class Representative, *Freshman Class Representative

Also, the ASB plans and promotes many activities for the students to promote school culture.

ASB Calendar of Events *Dates are tentative and subject to change

Senior Sunrise – August 20th

ASB Board Member Elections - September 7th

Spirit Days – October 26th-November 5th

Harvest Dance – November 6th

Winter Formal – January 15th

Movie Night – February 18th

Pennies for Patients – March 8th – March 25th

Prom – April 2nd

Senior Sunset – May 27th

Valley Oaks Clubs

Student clubs are a great way for students with similar interests to come together to enjoy and or promote that interest with each other and the students of Valley Oaks. We have a variety of clubs that students may join in order to participate in hobbies they enjoy, gain skill in an activity, or provide a service to their community.

Students may also create their own club by following these steps:

- Complete a club request form
- Create a club constitution
- Find a teacher to be your club advisor

All form requests and questions can be directed to Mr. Shelton at thshelton@kern.org

ROC Program

ROC is a program through KHSD that offers a variety of programs to those interested in developing or improving job skills. Classes are Monday-Friday from either 7:30-10:30 or 11:45-2:45.

All courses are designed to prepare students for entry-level employment. Classes at ROC are open to Valley Oaks high 11th and 12th graders. However, at this time our students are not guaranteed spots in the program until after the semester begins and openings are verified.

Students need to plan with their advisor during their 9th and 10th grade years if they are interested in attending ROC so that their schedules may be accurately created.

A listing of course options can be found at roc.kernhigh.org under the 'Programs' menu.

Contact Mrs. Lieske, gelieske@kern.org or Mr. Gonzales jogonzales@kern.org for more information.

Concurrent Enrollment

Concurrent enrollment is an opportunity where a student may be authorized, with parent/guardian consent, to attend a community college as a special part-time student and to enroll in one or more courses of instruction offered at the community college level. All approvals must be obtained prior to the beginning of courses taken. The following also must be considered:

- Students shall be enrolled in a combined course of study that is a full course load, as defined by VOCS.
- Courses taken outside the Kern Community College system will be approved on an individual basis, by the principal or designee.
- The student and/or the student's family will pay all applicable fees.
- College/University coursework and units are not incorporated into VOCS's master agreement.

VOCS has a process in place for students to become eligible for concurrent enrollment. It is suggested that this process begin the semester prior to the semester of desired enrollment. These steps include:

- A meeting with a VOCHS counselor to discuss concurrent option
- Attend a concurrent enrollment orientation provided at VOCS
- Complete the matriculation steps with the community college
- Fill out the appropriate paperwork and school signatures
- And finally, register and attend class.

For more information contact MRs. Lieske, gelieske@kern.org

Work Permits

Students who wish to be employed while they attend school may do so under the conditions established by the State of California Department of Labor and Valley Oaks Charter School. The employment should never interfere with the required 4-6 daily hours necessary to complete required studies.

Conditions of issuing work permits include:

1. A student must be enrolled in good standing with the school and passing all classes.
2. The number of employed hours shall not exceed statutory limits nor interfere with the student's education.
3. New students may receive a work permit as soon as a Master Agreement is signed and it is determined that they were in good standing with their previous school.

Work Permits (Continued)

4. The student must be enrolled in a full schedule of coursework.

The principal or designee will call an employer and invalidate a work permit if any of the following conditions occur:

1. The student drops.
2. The student is not meeting the standards for student success.
3. The student is placed on Tier III Probation

Process of Getting a Work Permit:

1. Student gets verbal agreement of employment from their employer.
2. Student obtains a Request for Work Permit form from the Career Associate, Mr. Gonzales
3. Paperwork is signed by the student, parent, and employer and is turned into Mr. Gonzales
4. An official Work Permit is issued.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy

VOCS believes that academic honesty and personal integrity are fundamental components of a student's education and character development. We expect that students, parents, and school staff will not cheat, lie, plagiarize or commit other acts of academic dishonesty.

The school will not accept work submitted that is not the original work of the student. When a resource is being cited, care must be given to give credit to the originator of the work. That credit should be stated in a format that is appropriate to the developmental age of the student.

When parents are given teachers editions, they are to use them to plan lessons, assist students with concepts, and evaluate lessons. Teacher Editions and supplemental answer documents shall not be misused.

Students found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to discipline, up to and including a failing grade in the class.

VOCS High School Calendar

Fall Semester

Friday, August 13 th	Home Educator Workshop
Monday, August 16 th	9th-10th Student Welcome
Tuesday, August 17 th	1 st Quarter / Fall Semester Begins
Friday, September 3 rd	Last Day to Drop a Class
Monday, September 6 th	Labor Day – No School
Monday, September 13 th	Kern County College Night
Wednesday, October 13 th	PSAT
Friday, October 15 th	1 st Quarter Ends
Monday October 18 th	2 nd Quarter Begins
Thursday, November 11 th	Veterans’ Day – No School
November 22 nd - 26 th	Thanksgiving Break – No School
December 20 th - 31 st	Winter Break - No School
Friday, January 14 th	2nd Quarter / Fall Semester Ends

Spring Semester

Monday, January 17 th	Dr. MLK Jr. Day – No School
Tuesday, January 18 th	3rd Qtr / Spring Semester Begins
Friday, February 4 th	Last Day to Drop a Class
Monday, February 14 th	Lincoln Holiday – No School
Monday, February 18 th	President’s Day – No School
Friday, March 18 th	3 rd Quarter Ends
Monday, March 21 st	4 th Quarter Begins
April 11 th - 18 th	Spring Break – No School
TBD	SBAC Testing for 11 th Grade
TBD	Grad Nite for Class of 2022
TBD	Extravaganza
Friday, May 27 th	Friday Class Finals
Monday, May 30 th	Memorial Day – No School
May 31 st & June 1 st	Tuesday Class Finals
Wednesday, June 1 st	4 th Quarter / Spring Semester Ends
Thursday, June 2 nd	Graduation

Valley Oaks Charter School Drop-off and Campus Map

